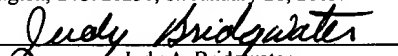


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box AF, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 28, 2003.


Judy A. Bridgwater

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

BIJL and SCHAAP

Serial No.: 08/821,025

Filing Date: 19 March 1997

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION
OF A GRANULAR MICROBIAL
BIOMASS AND ISOLATION OF A
COMPOUND THEREFROM

Examiner: I. Marx

Group Art Unit: 1651

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE --
EXAMINING GROUP 1651

41/A
M. J.
2/10/03
(NE)

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to a final Office action herein mailed April 29, 2002 and a Notice of Appeal filed August 28, 2002, setting a time for a response to expire on October 28, 2002. A petition for an extension of time for three (3) months until January 28, 2003 in which to respond is attached herewith along with the required fee. Claims 1-29, 31, 33-36, and 41-67 were rejected in the Final Office Action. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection and the following amendments and remarks are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.